

REMARKS:

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to in the Office Action because reference characters 6C, 6D 4C, 4D and 11 mentioned in the specification do not appear in the drawings. As mentioned in the specification, the elements 6C, 6D 4C, 4D and 11 are not illustrated in the drawings. But reference characters for these elements are needed to describe the elements in the specification. Therefore, Applicants have amended paragraphs 20-22 of the specification to that effect. It is believed that the amendment to the paragraphs has obviated the objection to the drawings.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In the above amendment, appropriate corrections have been made to claims 14 and 15 to obviate the claim objections.

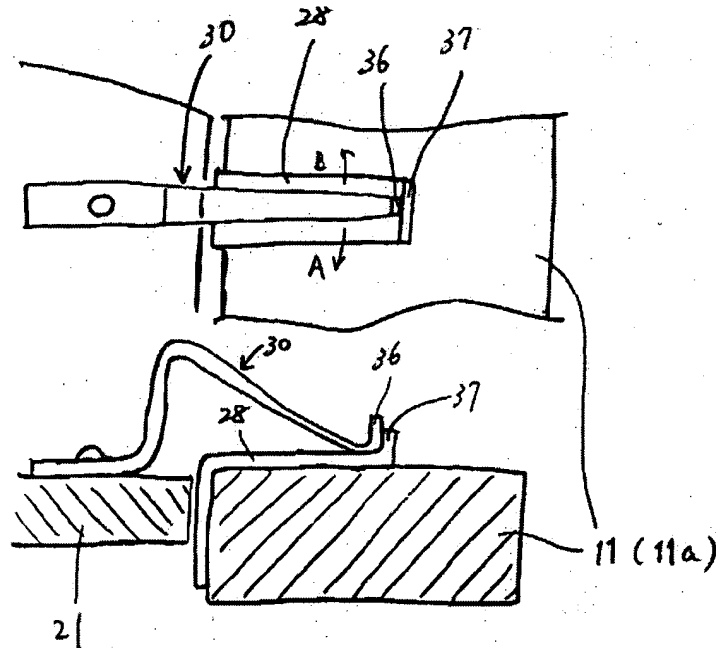
CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

In the above amendment, appropriate corrections have been made to claim 20 to obviate the claim rejections.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102(B)

Claims 14-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP-2002-327780. Claim 14 distinguishes from JP-2002-327780 in that the reference does not disclose at least one wall that elevates from the supporting member adjacent to the return spring to limit a clockwise or counter clockwise movement of the distal end around the base end relative to the supporting member by abutting against at least one edge of the return spring which connects the base and distal ends of the return spring.

There is nothing disclosed in JP-2002-327780 that limits the pivotal movement of JP-2002-327780. Applicants would ask the Examiner to take a close look at Fig. 2 of JP-2002-327780, especially the tongue (28). In Fig. 2, the lines referenced by reference numeral 28 which are drawn parallel to the oblique spring plate 30 (or 35) show the side edges of the tongue (28). In other words, no wall is shown in Fig. 2. In this regard, a drawing is presented below to show the embodiment of JP-2002-327780.



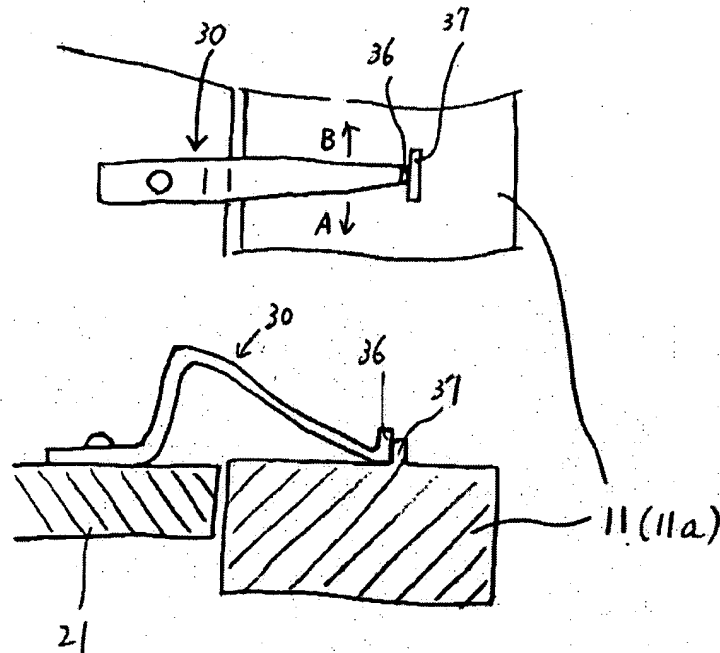
As shown in the above drawing, the spring plate (30) around the fixed point (31) of the spring plate (30). Since there is no limiting means, it is believed that the spring plate 30 can pivot around the point (31).

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that paragraph [0016] of JP-2002-327780 describes the restricting means. Contrary to the Examiner's indication, there is nothing mentioned in paragraph [0016] regarding the restricting means. Here is a translation of paragraph [0016]:

[0016] In the above embodiment, the spring plate 30 performs three functions: return spring function; crank noise suppressing function; and wear sensing function. Therefore, the number of the parts can be reduced, compared to a device that has multiple parts that perform the functions, and the extra work to fix the parts to the rear plate 21 can be eliminated. In the above embodiment, the engagement tip 37 is provided at the tip of the tongue 28 of the pad spring 5, and the elevating tip 36 of the spring plate 30 abuts against the engagement part 37. Please note, however, that the present invention may have a configuration in which the engagement tip 37 is provided on side of the carrier 1 in such a manner that the engagement tip 37 is provided on each of the outer surfaces of the pair of columns 11a and 13a of the attachment section 11 and the suspension section 13 when iron casted.

The engagement tip 37 functions as a stop to keep the spring plate 30 from extending in its length. The above paragraph of JP-2002-327780 states that the

engagement tip 37 may be provided on the column 11a or 13a. The following drawings show the alternative configuration.



Again, it is clear from the above drawing that paragraph 16 does not suggest at least one wall that elevates from the supporting member adjacent to the return spring to limit a clockwise or counter clockwise movement of the distal end around the base end relative to the supporting member by abutting against at least one edge of the return spring which connects the base and distal ends of the return spring.

Respectfully submitted,

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